

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 20 April 2006

TIME: 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt, Esq., Maria R. Gil

Excused Absence: Raymond C. Coia, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D., Denise Panichas

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Andrea Therrien (Intern)

Public: (see attached)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by four in favor and none opposed (4-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was an update on charity care provision by Odyssey HealthCare Operating B, LP, which operates an Outpatient Hospice Care Facility at 100 Quaker Lane in Warwick.

Mr. Blaser, administrator, introduced himself and other representatives to the Committee and summarized the history of Odyssey Healthcare Operating B, LP as well as their charity care provision. It was noted that Odyssey received its initial licensure on 7 April 2004 and stated that it would provide 2% charity care and as a condition of approval is required to report to the state agency semiannually with regards to charity care and accreditation. The

applicant stated that it has always been difficult to find charity care patients. The applicant discussed changes in management and administration over the past 6 months and reviewed changes at the corporate level. The applicant stated that these changes have not had an impact on the Rhode Island's facility.

The applicant reviewed its outreach program and noted that they provided the list of organizations that have been contacted to generate referrals beginning in February. Additional outreach efforts being made by the applicant were also discussed. The applicant stated that they were open for suggestions with regards to charity care.

Ms. Almeida recommended that the applicant contact adult correctional institutions that may have HIV positive inmates, who lack insurance, and who recently face parole. The applicant stated that they had contacted AIDS coalitions and alliances. The Chairman inquired if the applicant offered quality of life treatment to patients even if it was not covered by the patient's insurance. The applicant replied that they do, and that they have contracted with a therapy company. Odyssey pays the therapy company for these services through flat rates provided by Medicare; however, this would not qualify as charity care.

Ms. Annalee Wulfkuhle, President of Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island and the State Hospice Alliance of Rhode Island

addressed the Committee. She discussed the issue of providing charity care. She noted the benefit of having a culturally diverse staff in better reaching the minority populations. Ms. Wulfkuhle agreed to work with the applicant and the Department to arrive at a solution to the charity care issue by providing benchmarks and criteria from the State Hospice Alliance of Rhode Island.

The Chairman expressed concern that Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island was burdened with a disproportionate amount of charity care that other hospice agencies could offer. The applicant stated that many patients do not realize that there are hospice agencies other than Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. The Chairman suggested that the applicant develop a detailed outreach program for its next appearance before the Committee and asked for input from the State Hospice Alliance of Rhode Island for guidance. Staff suggested surveying hospice agencies with regards to provision of charity care.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova